

**Amendments to the Specification**

**In the Specification:**

Before paragraph [0002] please insert the heading --BACKGROUND--.

Before paragraph [0006], please insert the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0007] ~~This object is achieved by~~ The present invention provides a scanning microscope having a light source which evanescently illuminates a sample placed on a slide, further having a point detector which receives detection light emanating from a scanning point of the sample, and further having a beam deflection device disposed in the optical path of the detection light for shifting the position of the scanning point in the sample.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0011] The illuminating light is preferably passes through the outer edge region of the pupil of the objective lens to ensure that the critical angle of total reflection is reached in the cover slip. Preferably, the illuminating light is formed into an illuminating light beam which is preferably focused in the plane of the objective pupil. The illuminating light beam can remain stationary during the examination of a sample. In a ~~particularly~~ preferred variant, the illuminating light beam can be swept in circles through the outer region of the objective pupil using an additional beam deflection device. ~~Particularly advantageously~~ Advantageously, a very homogenous and uniform illumination is achieved in this manner.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] Preferably, the objective lens has a numerical aperture greater than 1.3, and ~~particularly~~ advantageously between 1.35 and 1.42.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0016] In a ~~very particularly~~ preferred embodiment variant, the illuminating light includes a plurality of wavelengths. In this variant, for example, a plurality of different sample dyes can be optically excited simultaneously.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0021] In a ~~very particularly~~ preferred embodiment, the light path of the detection light includes a plurality of detection channels, which may each have a bandpass filter provided therein.

Before paragraph [0022], please insert the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0022] ~~The subject matter of the Exemplary embodiments of the present invention is are~~ schematically illustrated in the drawings and will be described below with reference to the Figures, wherein like elements are designated by like numerals and, wherein:

Before paragraph [0027], please insert the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION--.